

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 064226

43

ORIGIN ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-03 NSC-07 SS-20 OIC-04 AEC-11

OMB-01 /160 R

DRAFTED BY ACDA:TMCNAMARA/PM:DCAMITTA

APPROVED BY EUR:WSTABLER

C:VLEHOVICH

NSC:POWER

IO/UNP:THOMSON (DRAFT)

S/S: WHLUERS

EUR/L:SMALL

ACDA:HERSHFIELD

EUR/RPM:ACFLOYD

JCS-J5-GEORGI

OSD/MBFR:MICHAEL

----- 024094

R 300019Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO

USMISSION GENEVA

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

USDOCOSOUTH

USLOSACLANT

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T STATE 064226

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: CSCE: MILITARY ASPECTS - DEFENSE EXPENDITURES

REF: A) GENEVA 634 B) GENEVA 1128; C) NATO 5913

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 064226

D) STATE 49098

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

1. WE HAVE REVIEWED DEFENSE EXPENDITURES ISSUE AND ITS TREATMENT IN PARA 3A OF UK DRAFT (REF A) AND PARA D2 OF NEUTRALS' DRAFT (REF B). IN TERMS OF SIMPLE AVAILABILITY OF REQUISITE INFORMATION, CONGRESSIONAL AND DOD PUBLIC DOCUMENTS PRESENT US DEFENSE SPENDING DATA IN GREATER DETAIL THAN THAT REQUIRED IN NEUTRAL DRAFT AND, HENCE, WE HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH PUBLICATION.

2. WHILE WE AGREE THAT MEANINGFUL COMPARISON WITH ANY FIGURES EAST MAY PUBLISH IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE, WE DO NOT SHARE APPREHENSIONS EXPRESSED ECONOMICS COMMITTEE REPORT (REF C) REGARDING POSSIBLE EMBARRASSMENT AS A CONSEQUENCE OF ANY COMPARISONS WHICH MAY BE MADE. IF DEBATE WERE JOINED, A PROPAGANDA ADVANTAGE IN FAVOR OF THE WEST COULD MATERIALIZE, PARTICULARLY IN CONTRASTING THE OPENNESS OF

DATA IN MOST WESTERN COUNTRIES AND THE SECRETIVENESS SURROUNDING SUCH DATA IN THE WARSAW PACT NATIONS.

3. NEUTRAL PROPOSAL CALLS UPON ALL PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES TO DISCUSS THE PUBLICATION OF NATIONAL DEFENSE SPENDING DATA IN GREATER DETAIL THAN SOVIETS DO AT PRESENT (THEIR POLICY IS TO RELEASE ONLY ONE AGGREGATE DEFENSE SPENDING FIGURE ANNUALLY, THE DEFENSE "ESTIMATE" OR BUDGET). HENCE, WHILE THERE IS LITTLE HOPE THAT THE SOVIETS WILL EVER PUBLISH EXTENSIVE DETAIL ON DEFENSE EXPENDITURES, ANY FURTHER ELABORATION OF SOVIET EXPENDITURES, PARTICULARLY OF R AND D, WOULD BE VALUABLE.

4. IN DISCUSSIONS AMONG ALLIES, HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD ALSO MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS.

A. WE DO NOT THINK A CSCE MEASURE RELATING TO EXPENDITURES ON ITS OWN MERITS IS WORTH ANY POSITIVE ALLIED EFFORT.

B. WITHOUT AGREEMENT ON DEFINITIONS OF DEFENSE EXPENDITURES

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 064226

TURES CATEGORIES, WE SEE THE POSSIBILITY OF FRUITLESS DISCUSSIONS IN CSCE ABOUT WHAT WOULD CONSTITUTE ADEQUATE PUBLICATION OF DATA. IF QUESTION ARISES A MAJOR CONSIDERATION IN OUR JOINING MEXICAN INITIATED UN STUDY OF TECHNICAL MILITARY REDUCTION QUESTIONS WAS OUR DESIRE TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON DEFINITIONAL PROBLEMS FIRST, THEREBY POINTING UP HOLLOWNESS OF SOVIET REDUCTION OF BUDGET PROPOSAL.

C. FINALLY, WE DO NOT THINK DATA OF DOUBTFUL RELIABILITY WILL ASSIST IN ACHIEVING OUR GOALS IN CSCE MILITARY SECURITY SUB ITEM.

D. IF, AS SEEMS ALMOST CERTAIN, EASTERN NATIONS FIND EXPENDITURE CBM UNACCEPTABLE, WE BELIEVE THEY RATHER THAN ALLIES SHOULD BEAR THE BURDEN OF KILLING IT.

5. CONSIDERING THE FOREGOING, WE FIND DEFENSE EXPENDITURE MEASURE OF LITTLE MERIT. THE UK DRAFT, DESPITE ITS MORE GENERAL LANGUAGE, HAS UNDESIRABLE PHRASE "GREATER OPENNESS." WE DO NOT SEE HOW WE CAN BE MORE OPEN.

6. USDEL SHOULD DRAW ON FOREGOING IN DISCUSSIONS IN NATO CAUCUS AND WITH OTHERS AS APPROPRIATE. IN SUBCOMMITTEE,

HOWEVER, USDEL SHOULD REMAIN SILENT ON DEFENSE EXPENDITURE ISSUE. IF CONSENSUS DEVELOPS IN FAVOR OF VOLUNTARY MEASURE ON DEFENSE EXPENDITURE, EITHER IN CAUCUS OR IN SUBCOMMITTEE DELEGATION SHOULD NOT OPPOSE IT. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EXPENDITURES, MILITARY BUDGET
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE064226
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TMCNAMARA/PM:DCAMITTA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740071-0075
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974031/aaaaaalh.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ACDA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) GENEVA 634 B) GENEVA 1128; C) NAT, O 5913
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAR 2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <06 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CSCE: MILITARY ASPECTS - DEFENSE EXPENDITURES
TAGS: PFOR, US, CSCE, DOD
To: NATO GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005